



UNREACHABLE SKY

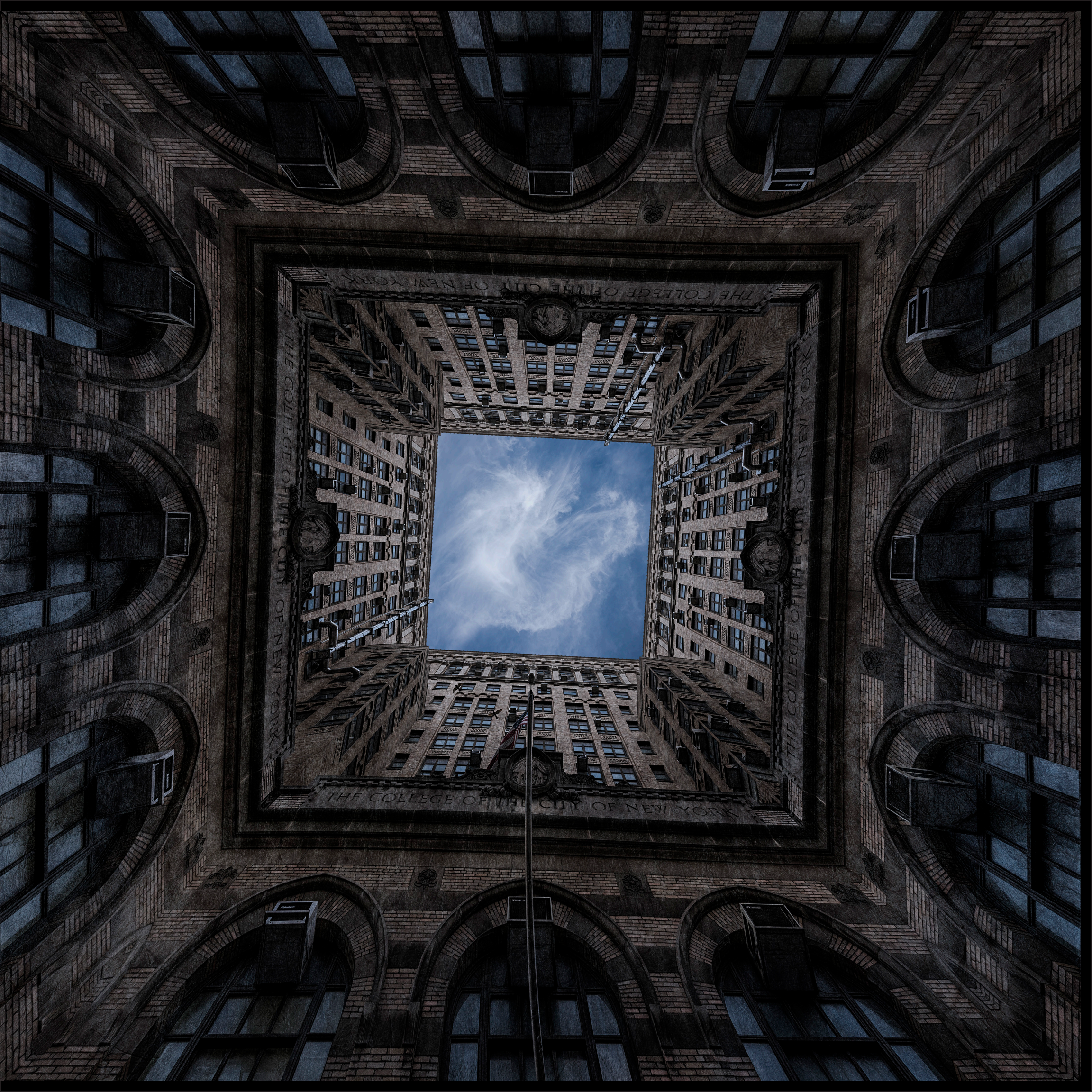
UNREACHABLE SKY

YIFAN BAI

When I moved to New York City from Australia, I faced a photographic challenge. As a landscape photographer, I had become accustomed to Australia's easy access to nature, and thus the content of my images was largely organic. In New York, I had to find a way to make pictures while living in the city — an environment that crowds out most of the natural world.

New York City's buildings and skyscrapers dominate the environment to the extent that its inhabitants can often only see the sky. For me, the sky itself, fragmented by buildings, became the only sign of nature and a reminder of how far removed I was from it. My photographic strategy, in this series of images called *Unreachable Sky*, was to use a swatch of sky as a symbol framed by urban structures on all four sides.

Rather than simply create “straight” photographs of the patches of sky between buildings, I decided to use digital compositing. This allowed me to create images that emphasised the feeling of claustrophobia, and of being trapped, that the New York City environment sometimes gives me. The technique also let me combine urban structures with skies containing different kinds of clouds taken at different times during the day. I want viewers to focus on these changable skies — evidence that nature remains in constant flux, in contrast to the static facades of the city's buildings.



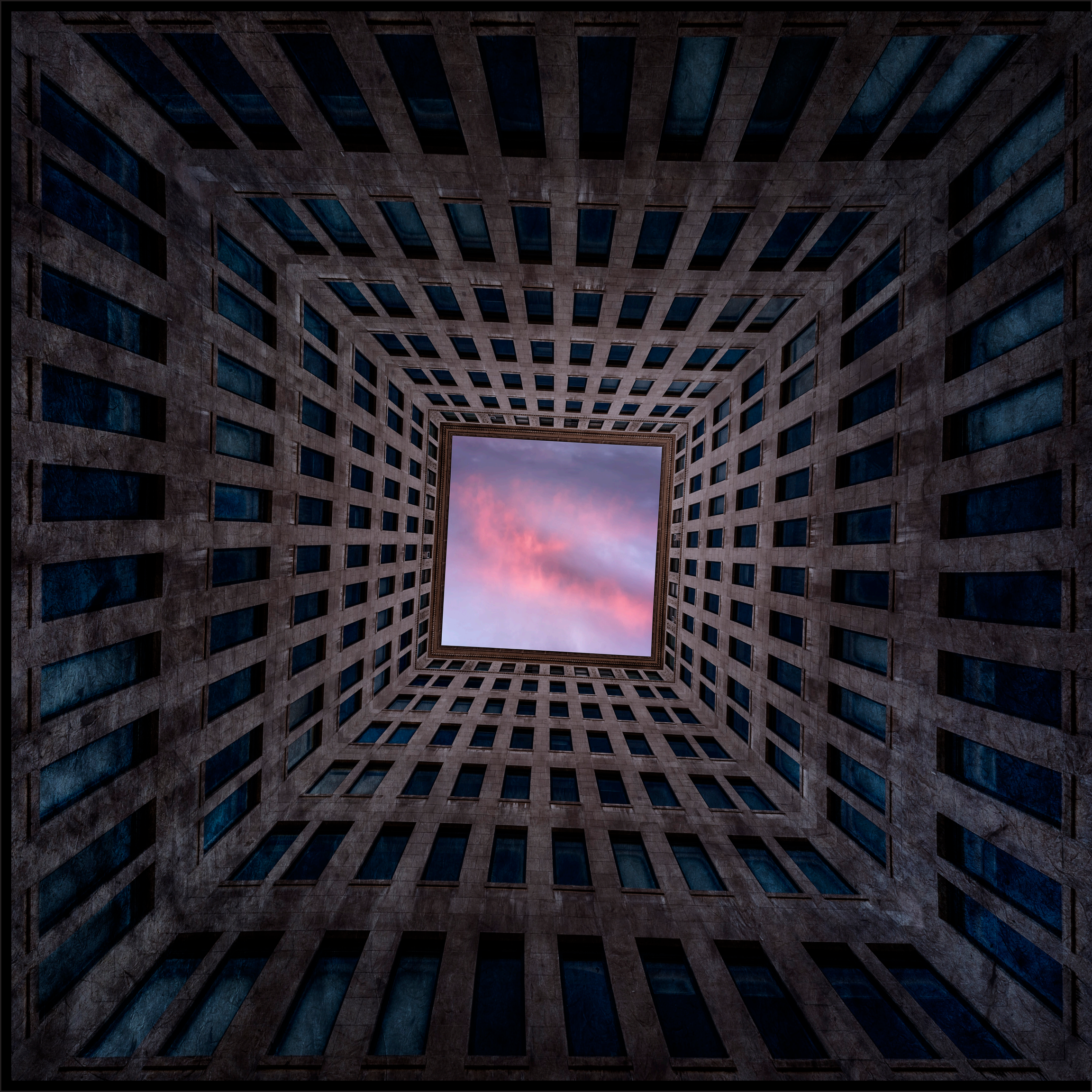


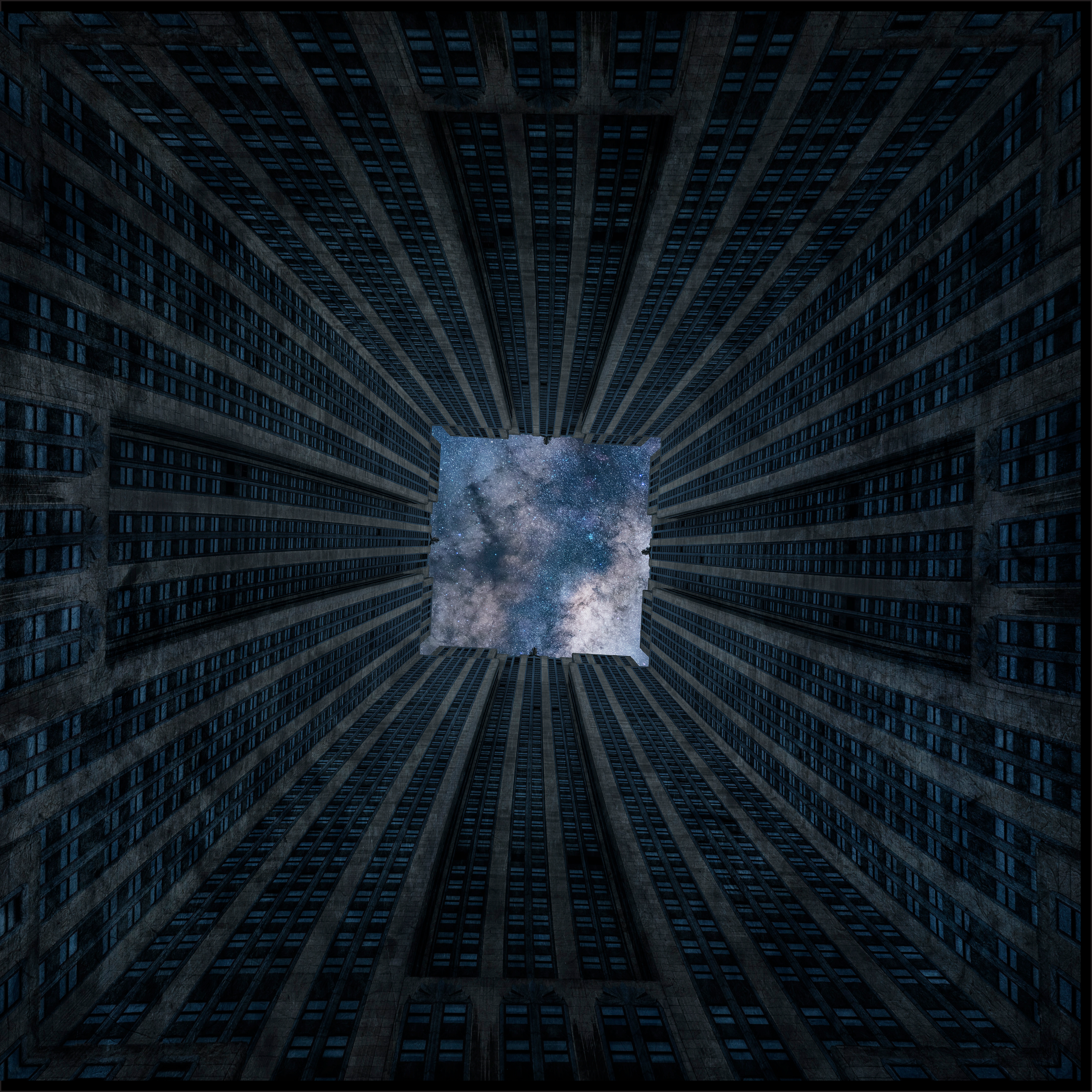




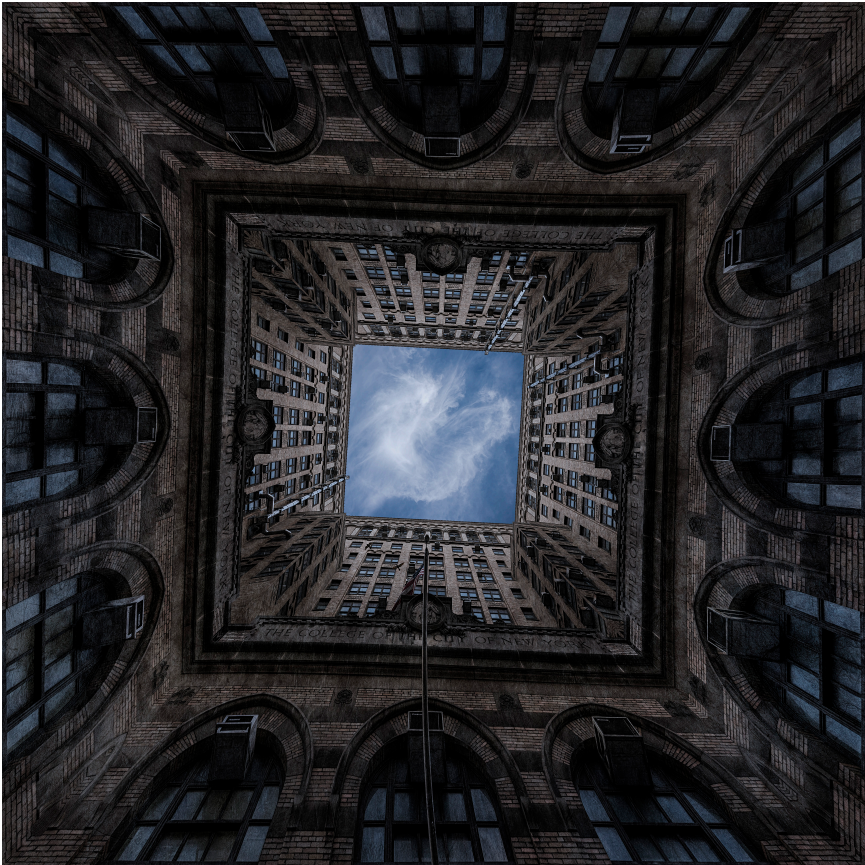
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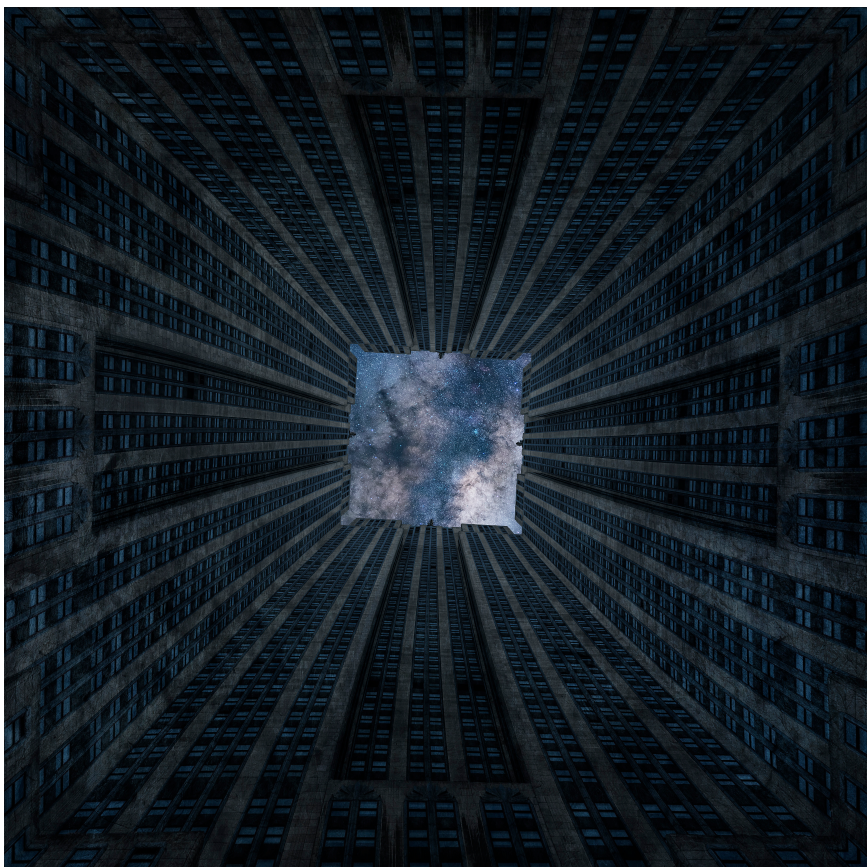
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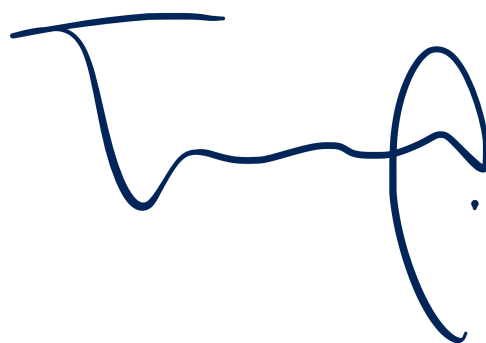


VII



VIII

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents, who have always stood behind me and supported me no matter what. I would also like to thank everyone from the prestigious School of Visual Arts MPS department for all of your help and advice throughout this process. I am grateful for the support and encouragement from all of my friends; you've made who I am today, and this project would not have been completed without you.



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